

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

February 7, 2011

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 7, 2011, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 10, 24, and 31, 2011, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings held on January 10 and 24, 2011, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Sean McGarry reported that he attended a Rhode Island Association of School Committees meeting where they were asked to locally adopt a resolution on binding resolution. He has a draft resolution to share with the other committee members as well as a sample letter to send to our state senator and representative. Other items discussed included the reorganization of the collaboratives and the letter sent to Governor Chaffee supporting Deborah Gist in her role as commissioner. In addition, each district was asked to adopt a basic code of management.

Mr. Hicks submitted the district summary of our fall, 2010 NECAP scores in mathematics, reading, and writing. This information was made available on January 31, but has been embargoed until Wednesday, February 2. It was explained that several of our grade levels had fewer than 10 students and, therefore, the results would not be publicized.

The finance report through January 31, 2011, was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks stated that the budget is generally consistent when compared to last month's report. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the fiscal report through January 31, 2011, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks originally proposed a budget with an increase of \$154,937 (3.65 percent) in town funding. During the budget workshops School Committee members were adamant that the town would not be able to support the school to this extent and requested that Mr. Hicks reduce the budget to three percent or less, if possible. The following cuts were suggested: \$12,000 from food service and \$300 from propane (both reductions based on experience); \$6,997 from salary (revised assumption for undetermined salaries); \$10,000 from technology (moves technology capital to REAP grant); \$4,000 from supplies/materials (level fund); and \$1,369 from salary (this would be a more aggressive assumption for undetermined salaries). Mr. Hicks stated that the

cuts would be tougher to make as you go down the list. It was suggested that if the first four items were reduced the budget increase would be \$125,640 or 2.96 percent.

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 7:34 p.m. to open the public hearing on the 2011-2012 budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

There were no questions or comments from the audience. Mr. McGarry requested that money be found in this budget to expand the math program.

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 7:39 p.m. to close the public hearing on the 2011-2012 budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the 2011-2012 budget in the amount of \$4,558,287 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to authorize the Superintendent to transmit the School Committee adopted 2011-2012 budget to the Town Manager as required carried with a vote of 5-0.

At the meeting on January 10 a discussion was held on the school's traffic plan, specifically how chaotic it is in the front lobby at dismissal with parents waiting for their children, students walking home, and others taking the bus. It was requested that any suggestions to make dismissal safer be forwarded to the superintendent. One of Mr. McGarry's concerns was the bus illegally idling by the front door, which he noticed when it was waiting to return a visiting basketball team to the ferry dock. Annie Hall stated that she picks up her children on most days and would notice if the bus were idling because the diesel smell makes her sick. Pat Doyle stated that the administration should approach the bus driver to explain that this practice is not allowed by law. Mr. McGarry also stated that if the bus were moved to the smaller circle the added distance students would have to walk would be the length of the bus. Mr. Hicks' concern was not the distance children would walk, but the fact that the sidewalk narrows into a funnel next to where cars are traveling in and out of the driveway. It was stated that it may be chaotic at dismissal time, but a staff member is on duty and individual teachers make sure that elementary students use the mode of transportation specified by parents. Mr. McGarry hopes that someday the architectural plan that we paid for could be implemented.

New Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from Lisa Stiepoek to home school her daughter, Alcy, during an extended family vacation from February 28 through April 15, 2011, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Barbara Michel to the teacher leadership position of teaching framework carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the Agreement with Easter Seals Rhode Island for physical therapy services carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of February and March was submitted for School Committee information. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including notification from The Trust that Amy Doran applied for and received a \$1000 grant to purchase portable radios for use in emergencies.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:06 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Date approved

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk